



MODALITY

# Sonography

## PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS AND PURPOSE

### ■ Mission

**The mission of Southwest University at El Paso is to provide exceptional career and technical training, promote intellectual growth, critical examination and informed understanding through general education and a commitment to educational excellence strengthened by quality instruction, a positive learning environment, and the integration of emerging technologies to enable students to achieve their potential, participate in new employment opportunities, and continue to be lifelong learners.**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program of Southwest University at El Paso is committed to excellence in education demonstrated by providing a comprehensive entry-level education program to students through quality didactic and clinical instruction. The program supports the vision, values, and mission of Southwest University at El Paso by striving to be the premier Diagnostic Medical Sonography training program in our community. In combination, the seven program components ensure the adequacy of a well-rounded program through classes in didactic theory, application and practice of skill sets in the laboratory environment, and integration of didactic theory and acquisition of performance objectives in the clinical setting.

Consistent with the mission of Southwest University, the faculty of the College of Imaging Sciences is committed to prepare competent entry level general sonographers in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

## ■ Goals

The goals of the Southwest University AAS DMS program are:

- Goal #1:** Graduates will be clinically competent.
- Goal #2:** Graduates will be effective problem solvers.
- Goal #3:** Graduates will communicate effectively.
- Goal #4:** Graduates will be professional.
- Goal #5:** The program will be effective in its instructional efforts.

## ■ Purpose

The freedom of individuals to gain knowledge and understanding is essential in the maturing of the mind. So that all students may exercise these freedoms a school must have an environment that does not lack order and stability.

## JOB TITLE

### ■ Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

## JOB DESCRIPTION

- **A Diagnostic Medical Sonographer** is a Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional that is qualified by professional credentialing and academic and clinical experience to provide diagnostic patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. The scope of practice of the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer includes those procedures, acts and processes permitted by law, for which the individual has received education and clinical experience, has demonstrated competency, and has completed the appropriate ARDMS certification(s) which is the standard of practice in ultrasound.

## **JOB SUMMARY**

- The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is responsible for the independent operation of sonographic equipment, and for performing and communicating results of diagnostic examinations using sonography.
- The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer is responsible for daily operations of the sonographic laboratory, patient schedule, equipment maintenance, the report of equipment failures, and quality assessment (QA). The sonographer maintains a high standard of medical ethics at all times and is self-motivated to increase level of understanding and knowledge of the field, disease, and new procedures as they evolve.

## **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Performs clinical assessment and diagnostic sonography examinations.
- Uses cognitive sonographic skills to identify, record, and adapt procedures as appropriate to anatomical, pathological, diagnostic information and images.
- Uses independent judgment during the sonographic exam to accurately differentiate between normal and pathologic findings.
- Analyses sonograms, synthesizes sonographic information and medical history, and communicates findings to the appropriate physician.
- Coordinates work schedule with Departmental Director and/or scheduling desk to assure workload coverage.
- Assumes responsibility for the safety, mental and physical comfort of patients while they are in the sonographers care.
- Assists with the daily operations of the sonographic laboratory.
- Maintains a daily log of patients seen / completes exam billing forms.
- Maintains ultrasound equipment and work area, and maintains adequate supplies.
- Participates in the maintenance of laboratory accreditation.
- Establishes and maintains ethical working relationships and good rapport with all interrelating hospitals, referral or commercial agencies.
- Performs other work-related duties as assigned.

## **EXAMPLES OF DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Performs all requested sonographic examinations as ordered by the attending physician.
- Prepares preliminary reports and contacts referring physicians when required, according to established procedures.
- Coordinates with other staff to assure appropriate patient care is provided.
- Addresses problems of patient care as they arise and makes decisions to appropriately resolve the problems.
- Organizes daily work schedule and performs related clerical duties as required.
- Assumes responsibility for the safety and well-being of all patients in the sonographic area/department.
- Reports equipment failures to the appropriate supervisor or staff member.
- Provides in-service education team on requirements of sonographic procedures as requested by other members of the health care team.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

## **SONOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGISTS PAY FOR ASSOCIATES DEGREES**

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technologists are employed in clinics, physician's offices, profit and non-for profit hospitals and outpatient centers. Sonographers can earn a variety of different wages. There are many factors that determine an individual's salary. An individual's salary is dependent upon the skill level, seniority and certifications one obtains. Please consider all those factors when investigating your regions salary.

## **CAREER OPPORTUNITES**

- Sonography is a dynamic profession that has grown significantly over the past 20 years. With rapidly developing new technologies and increased use of diagnostic ultrasound procedures, growth is projected to continue in the future with employment opportunities for qualified sonographers in both urban and rural areas nationwide. Sonographers and vascular technologists can choose to work in clinics, hospitals, private practice physician offices, public health facilities, laboratories, and other medical settings performing examinations in their areas of specialization. Career advancement opportunities exist in education, administration, research, and in commercial companies as education/application specialists, sales representatives, technical advisors, etc.

## LICENSES AND CERTIFICATION

- **Currently the program is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) which is recognized as an accreditor for the ARRT (The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists®)**
  - **ABHES:** 7777 Leesburg Pike, Suite 314 N. Falls Church, VA 22043
    - Phone: (703) 917-9503
    - Fax: (703) 917-4109
    - Link: <https://www.abhes.org/>
  - **ARRT:** 1255 Northland Drive, St Paul, MN 55120-1155
    - Phone: (651) 687-0048
    - Link: <https://www.rrt.org>
- A sonographer can get certification by graduating from an accredited program and passing an exam. Most exams relate to the specialty that the sonographer is most interested in—for example, an exam to be become certified in abdominal sonography. A few states require diagnostic medical sonographers to be licensed. Texas does not require licensure to be a sonographer; other requirements may vary by state. Most employers prefer to hire sonographers who have professional national certification; also sonographers must take continuing education to keep their certification current.

## STANDARD AND GUIDELINES

- When all requirements for the Associate Degree are completed, the student will be eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART). The only means of obtaining an ARRT credential is by examination. Required prerequisites must be met before an applicant can earn an ARRT credential. Upon successful completion of this examination, the student then becomes a Registered Technologist.

## ARRT®

*The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists*  
Certification for Students

- ARRT 1255 Northland Drive, St. Paul MN 55120.  
Phone: (651) 687-0048;  
Fax: (651) 994-8510.  
Link: <https://www.arrt.org/Certification/Sonography>

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

### WHAT ARE THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS?

#### Admission Requirements

There are three tracks for AAS DMS program admission:

#### 1) SU Graduate (Allied Health Science) Entry

- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor.
- Successful completion of the imaging entrance exam (HESI). HESI exam score must be a minimum of 70% to be considered for admission into the program. The non-refundable exam fee is \$45.00.
- Proof of Citizenship.
- Completion of Allied Health Science Degree at Southwest University
- 2 years or less post-graduated without current certification.
- 5 years or less post-graduate with current certification or a minimum 1 year of current medical experience
- 3.5 GPA or higher.
- 90% attendance or higher.
- No behavioral misconducts.
- A 500-word essay, with the prompt "Why would I like to be an Imaging Technologist"
- Physical
- Two letters of recommendation (1 personal, 1 professional)

- Interview with the program director.

## **2) Outside candidate (with Medical Certification background) Entry**

- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor.
- Successful completion of the imaging entrance exam (HESI). HESI exam score must be a minimum of 70% to be considered for admission into the program. The non-refundable exam fee is \$45.00.
- Proof of Citizenship.
- Proof of unencumbered LVN license.
- Proof of active medical allied certification with a minimum of 2 years of experience in the following areas: CMA, CNA, Paramedic, EMT, CCHT, CPhT.
- Candidates with prior medical military experience (Subject to interview with military liaison).
- Resume
- A 500-word essay, with the prompt "Why would you like to be an Imaging Technologist"
- Physical
- Two letters of recommendation (1 personal, 1 professional)
- Interview with the program director.

## **3) Outside candidate (degree in Health Science) Entry**

- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Successful interview with an intake (admissions) counselor.
- Successful completion of the imaging entrance exam (HESI). HESI exam score must be a minimum of 70% to be considered for admission into the program. The non-refundable exam fee is \$45.00.
- Proof of Citizenship.
- School transcript
- GPA 3.0 or higher
- Resume
- A 500-word essay, with the prompt "Why would you like to be an Imaging Technologist?"
- Physical
- Two letters of recommendation (1 personal, 1 professional)

- Interview with the program director.

Candidates to the AAS program and satisfy any of the three tracks of admission, must register to take the HESI Entrance Exam. The students are allowed to take the entrance exam up to three times in a period of six months until they achieve a satisfactory passing grade. Students who fail will be allowed to retake the exam in the next testing period with the same stipulations.

- Students must complete the application package and submit it before the application deadline. Only complete application packages will be accepted and move forward for ranking purposes.

### Important

To comply with our clinical sites, students are required to present a background check, a negative drug test, a two-step TB test, a Community-Wide Orientation (CWO) certificate, proof of vaccines and titers, and proper hospital orientations.

SU requires that AAS DMS program applicants be free of criminal convictions, if this is not the case, Southwest University and the AAS DMS program will not be responsible if the student is denied admission to clinical sites and/or is not allowed to sit for the certification exam.

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### **HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?**

AAS DMS program is 104 weeks.

## **WHO DO I CONTACT, AND WHERE DO I APPLY?**

Admissions Department/Imaging Department  
Southwest University  
1414 Geronimo Drive  
El Paso TX, 79925  
(915) 778-4001  
Fax: (915) 778-1575

## **WHEN DO I APPLY?**

Please inquire about important dates related to the imaging sciences program with our admission representatives.

### **POLICIES ON ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT**

Please refer to the University Catalog

### **TUITION FEES /REFUND POLICY**

For Further information concerning Southwest University radiologic technologist and other programs, Tuition Fees/Refunds please refer to the SU Catalog

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND SCHOOL POLICIES**

Please refer to the University Catalog

## GRADING SYSTEM

- **Basis for Calculation:** The cumulative grade point average (GPA) will be calculated at the end of each six-week period (or at the student's request). The calculation will be based on all quarter credit hour courses completed during the grading period.
- **Grade Explanation Numeric Grades**

A	EXCELLENT	90-100	4
B	ABOVE AVERAGE	80-89	3
C	AVERAGE	70-79	2
F	FAILING	BELOW 70	0
I	INCOMPLETE	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED
W	WITHDRAWN	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED
CR	CREDIT	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED
T	TRANSFER CREDIT	NOT COMPLETED	NOT COMPUTED

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Please refer to the University Catalog

## GRIEVANCE POLICY

- **Procedures for initiating Grievance Complaints:** This procedure has been established to provide a method to resolve student grievances at the lowest administrative level in a fair and expeditious manner. For the purpose of this procedure, grievances are limited to alleged violations of Southwest University at El Paso policy or procedures by Southwest University at El Paso or its employees, disputes with faculty and/or alleged unfair treatment. This method is usually used to appeal a grade the student feels was not justified. Under no condition should these policies be used when the student has allegedly violated the code of conduct. Any student who believes that he/she has been unjustly treated within the academic process may proceed as far as necessary in the steps detailed below.
  - A. Appeal to the faculty member: The student is to submit a written appeal to the faculty member within 30 days after the start of the six-week period following the six-week period in which the alleged grievance occurred. The faculty member and the student are to discuss the problem. The faculty member will submit a written report outlining his or her decision to the student and director within ten working days of receipt of the student's written appeal.
  - B. Appeals to the Director: If a decision satisfactory to the student cannot be reached, the student may submit a written appeal to the Director. This is to be done within ten working days after the receipt of the written decision by the Assistant Director or the Director may meet with the student, faculty member, or Assistant Director to review the merits of the appeal. The Director will submit a written response outlining his or her decision to the student, faculty member, and Assistant Director within ten days of the last meeting.
  - C. If a resolution is not reached the student may submit a written complain to TWC.
- **Arbitration & Mediation**

If any dispute should arise out of the Student's enrollment and attendance at the University, no matter what issues it involves or how either the Student or the University might describe, plead or style the dispute, both the Student and the University agree that they shall first make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute by participating in mediation with a neutral mediator and then, if the dispute is not resolved, it shall be submitted to binding arbitration under the Federal Arbitration Act, all as specified below:

  - a. The mediator shall be selected from a list of approved mediators maintained by a court or bar association situated in the same community (the "Local Community") as the campus of the University which the Student is attending.
  - b. If arbitration occurs, it shall be conducted at a convenient location within the Local Community, pursuant to

the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) by a single arbitrator selected from an AAA list in accordance with AAA selection rules.

- c. All allegations, claims and defenses, as well as any supporting information (including statements, testimony and documents), presented in mediation or asserted in arbitration shall be kept confidential by the parties and no disclosed outside of the mediation and arbitration proceedings except for disclosure to a party's counsel and consultants.
- d. All determinations as to the scope and enforceability of this arbitration provision shall be made by the arbitrator and not by a court.
- e. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding on both parties, and may be filed for enforcement by either the Student or the University in any court having jurisdiction.

The University and the Student acknowledge that they are voluntarily and irrevocably electing individualized arbitration (that is, between University and Student and not as part of any class action or mass tort or similar joinder of claims) as the remedy for any unresolved dispute they may have, and the arbitrator in such proceeding shall not have authority to hear any class or mass arbitration or to award punitive damages, consequential damages or noneconomic damages. University and Student voluntarily and irrevocably waive any rights they may have to bring a lawsuit in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction and to try their dispute before a judge or jury, including by means of a class action or mass tort or similar joinder of claims.

## **GRADUATION STATISTICS**

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the front program web page

## **5 YEAR STATISTICS**

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the front program web page

## **PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

Please select Program Effectiveness Data from the front program web page